

CITY of BEAVERTON

PRESS RELEASE

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BEAVERTON DIVERSITY AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

- Human Rights Advisory Commission Recognizes Larry Smith and Tualatin Valley Gleaners -

Beaverton, Oregon (February 12, 2009) – The Beaverton Human Rights Advisory Commission announced the winners of the City of Beaverton Diversity Award contest at the City Council meeting on February 9, 2009. The awards, granted in appreciation for the promotion of diversity, human rights, and cultural understanding in the City of Beaverton, were presented to an individual, Larry Smith, and a non-profit entity, Tualatin Valley Gleaners.

"The 2009 Diversity Award winners set a powerful example that I hope others will be inspired by," said Beaverton Mayor Denny Doyle. "Their commitment to helping others makes a profound difference in the well-being of our community and I commend them for their service to Beaverton."

Mr. Smith was recognized for his long history of commitment to the needs and concerns of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered young people in Beaverton. Well known among businesses and educators for his advocacy, he was lauded for the countless time and boundless energy that he put into fundraising and educational projects to help increase understanding of the issues facing this community as well as his support for their health and well-being. He was described by one of the nominators as "an advocate for those who feel like they have none."

Nominated for their work supplying food to families in need no matter what their situation, award winner Tualatin Valley Gleaners was also commended for cultivating a diverse group of volunteers. The nominator noted "the volunteer program brings all ages, races, cultural backgrounds, religions and people with mental and physical limitations together for one common goal: to feed their families and to help others."

City of Beaverton Diversity Award nominations for individuals, community or non-profit groups, and/or companies are sought by the Human Rights Advisory Commission each fall. A decision is made in December and the award presented at a City Council meeting at the beginning of year.

About the Beaverton Human Rights Advisory Commission

Established in 2003, the mission of the Beaverton Human Rights Advisory Commission is to promote harmonious intergroup relations within the City of Beaverton by enlisting the cooperation of various racial, religious, and nationality groups; business, community, labor, governmental, fraternal and benevolent associations; educational and other groups. Members of the Human Rights Advisory Commission include Judith Auslander, Daniel Brown, Esther Griffin, David Harburg, Alton Harvey Sr., Frank Monfared, Christy Scott, Rob Solomon and Blair Thomas.

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